



Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

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First Quarter 1999 Quality Initiative Report

October 1998 – December 1998

Quality Indicators

Acute Care Indicators

AHCCCS began developing the acute care indicators for prenatal care, women's health, childhood immunizations and birth outcomes in late 1994. In consultation with the health plans, the indicators were compared with HEDIS 2.0 and 2.5 and modifications were made. AHCCCS participated in the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) user group, reviewed HEDIS drafts and shared expertise on the Review and Specifications Panel for HEDIS 3.0. Initially, 11 indicators were identified. A year after the project began, the Cesarean Section indicator and the Asthma indicator were eliminated and well-child visits for children older than 1 year were added to conform with more recent HEDIS drafts.

On September 30, 1996, quality indicator reports were distributed to the health plans for the Phase 1 indicators, which are mammography, dental services, cervical screening and low birth rate based on 1994-1995 data. Health plan representatives validated the AHCCCS data to identify any discrepancies between AHCCCS data and health plan data. After validating the quality indicator reports, health plans were satisfied that the data was an accurate representation of their experience. The reports, which were submitted to HCFA on October 4, 1996, are the baselines against which health plans will be measured in the future. Quality indicator reports covering the 1995-96 period for these same four indicators were completed in May 1997 and were used to evaluate health plans in the 1997 RFP process.

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A brief explanation of several of the indicators is provided below. Appendix A provides a list

of all the indicators, including the five which are not described below. All but three of the acute care indicators are due to HCFA in October 1998. Of the three indicators which are not due in October, the Childhood Immunizations Assessment was submitted in early February 1998, the Diabetes Management Audit is due at the end of 1999 (also, see the 1997 Annual Medical Audit on Diabetes).. The Adolescent Well Care indicators is on hold and is scheduled for review in 2001.

Annual Immunization Assessment: The fifth annual immunization survey covered the contract year from October 1, 1996 through September 30, 1997 and focused on immunization completion rates among children who reached 24 months of age during the study period. Results of this assessment were released on February 3, 1998. All immunization rates were over 75% except DTP which was 69%. The highest immunization rate was 84% for HBV. The combined DTP, OPV and MMR immunization completion rate was 65%, an increase of two percentage points over last year's rates. Results summarizing missed opportunities, identified DTP as the antigen which could have the most significant impact on improvement in overall AHCCCS immunization rates. Immunization awareness in Arizona has increased, and providers have made a concerted effort to improve the immunization status of AHCCCS members. Much of the observed annual increase in immunizations has been due to the established relationship between AHCCCS, the health plans, program contractors and the providers.

AHCCCS included the immunization goals in the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 1998 contract year. As stated in the RFP, the AHCCCS long range goal is to reach or exceed the Healthy People 2000 goal of 90% immunization for two year old members. The annual immunization audit helps to ensure that these goals are being reached. If the health plan has not achieved at least the statewide average immunization rates by the end of the contract year, the health plan must submit a corrective action plan to AHCCCS.

The sixth Annual Immunization Study is in process for contract year 1997/98. The study is due to be completed by January 31, 1999.

Initiation of Prenatal Care Visits: This indicator measures the percent of enrolled women who had a live birth during the reporting year, who were enrolled less than 44 weeks but more than 6 weeks and had their first prenatal visit within six weeks of enrollment. The first baseline report will cover all live births for enrolled women from October 1, 1996 through September 30, 1997 and is expected to be completed in October 1998. According to the data, 42.1% of the 11,466 women who met the enrollment criteria for this measure had a prenatal visit within six weeks of enrollment.

Based on statistical information provided by the Department of Health Services, it appears that initiation of prenatal care data for AHCCCS members were significantly underreported. AHCCCS is working on devising methods to ensure the capture of data to measure prenatal care.

Prenatal Care Visits in the First Trimester: This indicator measures the trimester in which the pregnant member began receiving prenatal care through a health plan and the number of prenatal visits made by the member. The first baseline report covered all live births for enrolled women from October 1, 1996 through September 30, 1997 and is expected to be completed in October 1998. The report found that 40.8% of the 2,889 women who met the

enrollment criteria for this measure had a prenatal visit during the first trimester. Based on statistical information provided by the Department of Health Services (DHS), it appears that first trimester rates for AHCCCS members are significantly underreported. AHCCCS is working on devising methods to ensure the capture of data to measure prenatal care.

Well-Child 0-15 Months Indicator: The purpose of the report is to analyze the utilization of preventive visits in this age group. The report on the Well Child Indicator for 0-15 months was submitted on October 1, 1998. The data show that the aggregate utilization rate for all acute care health plans is 57.0%. The rate for Maricopa County is 55.5%, for Pima County it is 55.1% and the overall rate for rural counties is 63.0%. The next report on this indicator is scheduled for submission in September 1999.

Well Child 3, 4, 5 and 6 Years Old: Although this was the first year for this indicator, rates were run for the previous fiscal year for comparison. The percentage of children ages 3 through 6 receiving one or more well child visits between October 1, 1996 and September 30, 1999 was 48.6%, an increase of 5.1% from the FFY 1996 rate of 43.5%. The initial report was submitted in October 1998, and will be considered a baseline for measuring future performance.

Mammography Screening: This indicator measures the percentage of women who were continuously enrolled with a health plan for two years, who have had a mammography in the two year period of October 1, 1995 through September 30, 1997, and who were between the ages 52 through 64 at the end of the reporting period. The percentage of women who had a mammography during the two year period was 54.6%, an increase of 1.1% over the previous period's overall rating. The report was submitted to HCFA in October 1998.

Acute Care Utilization Reports: In an effort to improve the quality of data being used in the reports, a committee made up of representatives from several AHCCCS divisions was created to review and determine the coding accuracy of encounter information submitted by health plans.

In Phase 1, the Committee focused on the encounters submitted for the FFY 1996/97 on the HCFA 1500 form. Ad Hoc reports were produced to identify most common procedures which are billed over their daily limits, then each of the procedures were analyzed to determine if the limit was outdated or if there was a coding error made in the submission. Phase 1 of this project was completed in December 1998. In the second phase of this project AHCCCS will be working with the health plans to correct errors which were found in the initial phase of this project.

DATA ANALYSIS OF ENCOUNTERS Physician, Practitioner and Transportation FFY 1996-1997			
Number of Reference Table Updates	Number of Encounters Selected for Reporting	Number of Encounters Over Daily Limits	Percentage of Encounters Over Daily Limits
Over 300 Procedures	2,997,509	48,720	1.63%

| [Back To Top](#) | [Table of Contents](#) |

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